

REMARKS

1. In response to the Advisory Action dated June 23, 2011, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 25, 27-34, 39-51, and 53-65 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 25, 27, 34, 39-42, 53-59, 64 and 65 were rejected, and claims 28-33, 43-51 and 60-63 were objected to. By the foregoing amendments, claims 25, 29, 34, 44, 55 and 61 have been amended and claims 28, 40-43, and 58-60 have been cancelled. Upon entry of this paper, claims 25, 27, 29-34, 39, 44-51, 53-57 and 61-65 will be pending in this application. Of these thirty-five (35) claims, three (3) claims (claims 25, 34 and 55) are independent.

2. Based upon the following Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under § 103

3. Claims 25, 27, 34, 39-40, 55-57 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Australian Patent Application No. 200176077 to Single (hereinafter, "Single") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,553,294 to Nanno et al. (hereinafter, "Nanno"). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Amendment

4. In the response, in order to advance prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants hereby amend the independent claims to include the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

5. Applicants have amended claim 25 to include the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable in claim 28. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 34 to include the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable in claim 43. More specifically, claim 34 has been amended to include the features of claim 43 and any intervening claims. Further, Applicants have amended claim 55 to include the subject matter

indicated by the Examiner as being allowable in claim 60. More specifically, claim 55 has been amended to include the features of claim 60 and any intervening claims.

6. Applicants submit that these amendments raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search which has already been considered by the Examiner.

7. In view of the reasons explained above, Applicants' hereby respectfully submit that the present rejections are moot in view of Applicant's claim amendments.

Dependent claims

8. Applicants submit that the outstanding rejections of the rejected dependent claims depend upon the improper rejections of the independent claims. As such, Applicants submit that the rejections of the rejected dependent claims are improper at least for reasons similar to those discussed above in relation to the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the dependent claims be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of the subject matter recited in Applicant's claims 28-33, 43-51 and 60-63.

Conclusion

10. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

11. Applicants makes no admission by not addressing any outstanding rejections or bases of rejections. Furthermore, Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application. Thus, cancellations and amendments of above claims, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims.

Dated: August 3, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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